



November 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

The Iowa Council on Homelessness is in full support of updating the sections of the Iowa Code (16.41) and Iowa Administrative Code (Chapters 16.41 and 16.42) that pertain to the Shelter Assistance Fund and the Emergency Solutions Grant, in order to allow the awarding of grants no less frequently than every two years.

Current rules for these programs require awards to be based on annual grant competitions. The Iowa Finance Authority administers the two programs based on these current rules. The Iowa Finance Authority is seeking changes to these programs in order to allow the possibility of holding grant competitions only every other year, rather than every year. This change is sought as part of an overall review and update of current grant competition processes. The change is sought to achieve two main goals:

- 1) Simplify the grant competition process and reduce the administrative burden on both the Iowa Finance Authority and on applicant agencies.
- 2) Increase stability in recipient agencies by providing recipient agencies with longer-term awards and more time to plan ahead for anticipated funding.

The Iowa Council on Homelessness is a 38-member statewide governor-appointed volunteer advisory body. One of its duties according to statute is as follows: "Develop a process for evaluating state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether any state policies, programs, statutes, or rules should be revised to help prevent and alleviate homelessness." This letter of support is submitted according to this duty of the council.

Sincerely,

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Chair, Iowa Council on Homelessness

Theresa Armstrong
Iowa Department of Human Services

Diogenes Ayala
Simpson College

Allan Axeen
Coralville, Iowa

Zebulon Beilke-McCallum
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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